



K4GSO.us

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



December 2020

President's Message

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

2020 HAMFEST REPORT:

By all accounts, our Hamfest was a success. The weather was ideal...cool and low humidity. It was just perfect. Many of our commercial vendors had not been able to attend any hamfests since the Spring due to most events being cancelled because of the pandemic. Our vendors were happy to be here and like the First Christian Church layout, ease of access, on-site parking and the crowd we seem to attract. However, we had several challenges to overcome. Our unwelcome "guest," COVID-19, tried to spoil the party by dampening attendance. We projected attendance of 200 with about 150 actually showing up. We also had to adjust floor plans to allow for social distancing and limit the number of commercial and individual vendors.

The setup crew began early Friday morning arranging tables for the first vendors who began arriving at 8:00am and followed shortly by the others. Setup continued throughout the day and was completed late afternoon. We were fortunate the church had just enough tables on hand and we did not have to suffer the inconvenience and incur the expense of renting additional tables. Eight commercial vendors setup in the larger Memorial Hall: Tower Electronics, Hamworld, Signman of Baton Rouge, Satellite Sam, Nitefire Electronics, Paradan Radio, JT Communications and CCTV Electronics. Six individuals were setup in the smaller Fellowship Hall: Paul Bennett, Wayne Brown, Mike Condon, brothers Ramon and Pedro Alicea, Al and Pam Creel, and Jack Moyer.

An unexpected "surprise" was thrown at us late Thursday evening. Scout Troop 439, sponsored by First Christian Church, had committed to provide basic ham food for our event as a fund raiser. Unfortunately, one of the Scouts parents tested positive for COVID-19, which threw into question whether or not they could continue. Then, on Friday afternoon, the Scoutmaster

Next Club Meeting

December 15 Via Zoom

Meeting Room Open: 6:30

Meeting at 7:00

Hamfest Review

SSRC Board of Directors first Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

Happy
Holidays!

**Silver Springs
Radio Club Net**

K4GSO Repeater

Mondays at 7:30 PM

146.610, PL 123

Continued on next page....

advised that he could not participate because one of his fellow employees had tested positive. We were at a critical point for Hamfest because not having food does not bode well for these events. The Scouts had already purchased the food and willingly made it available to us, but we would have to find a way to prepare and serve it, or the food would go to waste. They had also arranged to have a large Duncan Donuts order delivered to Hamfest early Saturday morning.

So, what were we to do? We did what any smart, well adjusted males would do – we persevered, overcame and adapted, well sort of – we asked our club members and wives to save us! Marty, N4GL, stepped up and said she would be willing to tackle the food but would need some help. Ramona, KN4NRZ, Vicki (Bill's wife) and Susi (my wife) volunteered to assist. They arrived early Saturday morning without complaint and served coffee, donuts and hot dogs, bottled water and soft drinks throughout the day to help keep our attendees happy and make our event successful. All food sale proceeds went back to the scouts to help them recover from not being able to provide the service to the club. We can't thank all these ladies enough for bailing us out of what could have been a disaster and black-eye for the club. Well done!

The tailgaters arrived early Saturday morning with one from South Carolina arriving late Friday. The tailgate area expanded into the grassed parking area and was a very popular well attended place. The tailgate crew did an excellent job in marshalling the tailgaters and maintaining control.

Members who helped make this year's event successful are: Bill Gillespie, Jim Burgess, Ramona Burgess, Alan Burgess, Mike Condon, Wayne Brown, Marty Brown, Rich Alger, Andy Allen, Tom Lufkin, Darrell Franchuk, John Lindemeier, Gilbert Gyarmati, C. J. Heise, Bruce Richardson, Roger Staley, B.J. Viola, Steve Nash, Maurice Schietecatte, Harold Wood, Roland Wakefield and Carl Berry. Steve Szabo, WB4OMM, came from Daytona Beach as our QSL Card Checker. If anyone was omitted, please accept my apologies. Each filled vital functions, many multiple, to insure Hamfest operated smoothly. You made my job much easier. Thank you all for making this a great Hamfest.

Now, please go to the club website to sign-up for the 2021 Hamfest to be held on December 4, 2021 - again at First Christian Church.

MEMBERSHIP:

Don't forget, MEMBERSHIP is still job #1. Despite the COVID pandemic restrictions, we have continued to pick up another new application or two. Older members, we need you to help new members, especially those recently licensed, so adopt someone. This is important for their success in the hobby and us as a club. The sheer volume of information and technical details can be overwhelming, so help them out. End of sermon for this month. Rinse and repeat next month!

REGIME CHANGE:

Following a highly contested campaign for 2021 Officers and Directors, the election results have been tabulated, counted, recounted and finally adjudicated to be official. Taking over on January 1, the new ruling junta will be:

OFFICERS

President— Bill Gillespie, KW5BG
Vice President— Jim Burgess, KN4MIV
Secretary— Ivory Williams, W6IVY
Treasurer— Tom Lufkin, W4DAX

DIRECTORS

Mike Condon— W9MMC
Gilbert Gyarmati— K4GLG
Wayne Brown— N4FP
Immediate Past President— Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

Thanks again to all for agreeing to serve. You will do great things. Our membership is "the club" and these officers and directors represent all of us and will need everyone to help out when asked. Please do so.

HAM SCHOOL:

Cooler weather is now upon us coupled with a loosening of COVID restrictions; it is time to resume Ham School on last Saturday mornings each month. We have a number of new amateurs and members who may need help or mentoring, but it is not limited to just them – all can benefit. One thing to note – Ham School is not limited to SSRC members – we will teach and demonstrate our skills to any licensed amateur. We all learn from each other. Send in your suggestions and requests and we will try to get a "subject matter expert" to help teach to the request. Look for Ham School to resume in January.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

This is my last month as your President having served since March, 2018. During the last 34 months, we have weathered a few rough spots but have overcome each and have learned. I have called on you for help. Many

of you presented programs, served on committees, worked on the repeater, helped out at Perry Field, worked Field Day, volunteered for community events, published *The Oracle* and worked Hamfest. I was blessed with outstanding officers and board who willingly gave their time and sage advice to help advance our club's goals and growth. Thank all of you for your help, support and friendship. Please do the same for the new 2021 officers and board.

THE ORACLE:

Have you been reading *The Oracle* and seen the expanded content? We have some really talented members who write well thought out and reasoned articles. Thank you to all the members who send Marty, N4GL, articles for the club newsletter. Your contributions help make our newsletter interesting and informative. It can be on anything you've been doing, working on,

experimenting with, etc. – you know the drill. Please send your articles to her at ---->>>>

N4GL.MARTY@GMAIL.COM. Marty is also looking for member spotlights, so if you would like to add yours, please send it to her at the above email.

With a little luck, we will be done with all these COVID-19 virus restrictions and we can get back to normal. Stay well and safe. Thanks again for everyone's help at Hamfest and your support since 2018.

Ham On and be Radio-Active! That is all.

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Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

kq3k@cox.net

News You Can Use

[SSRC Logo Shirts & Caps](#)

[Green Clover Key Card](#)

[Perry Field Access](#)

[Membership Application](#)

[Buy/Sell/Trade](#)

[QST NFL](#) – NFL Section Newsletter

[Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)

[NFL Section Website](#)

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[NG3K DX](#)

2020 SSRC Officers

[President - Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)

[V President – Jim Burgess, KN4MIV](#)

[Secretary – Ivory Williams, W6IVY](#)

[Treasurer – Bill Gillespie, KW5BG](#)

Directors

[Ron Viola, KS4SW](#)

[Mike Condon, W9MNC](#)

[Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)

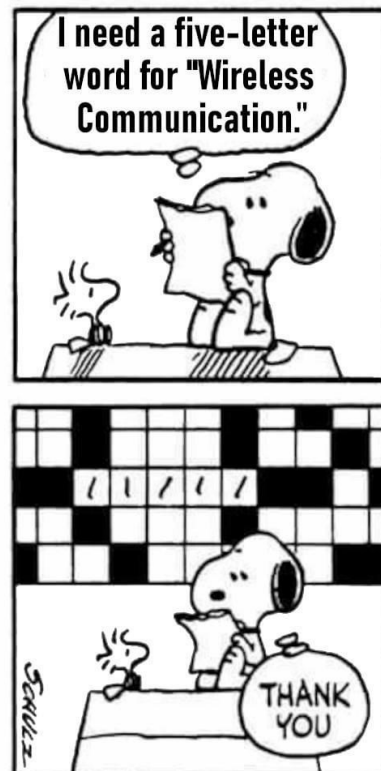
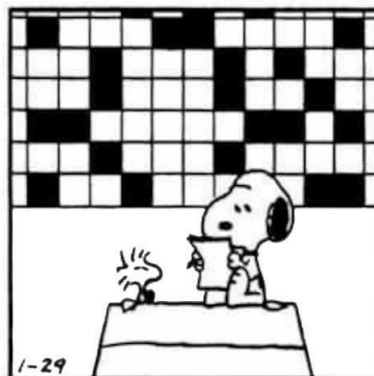
Committee Chairs:

[Membership – Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)

[Trustee K4GSO – Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)

[Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL](#)

[Club Minutes and Financial Reports](#)



Submitted by Carl KC5CMX

SSRC Member Biographies

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Outgoing President

We owe Elbert, KQ3K, thanks for stepping up when the SSRC Presidency became unexpectedly vacant almost three years ago. Elbert's been instrumental in rebuilding the club, capitalizing on it's existing strengths and creating new opportunities. Thank you, Elbert!

I was born at a young age in 1949 in Little Rock. I had just turned three months old when my parents moved to Georgia. The authorities were eventually able to locate them and reunite me with my parents. For unknown reasons, this pattern was repeated twice more with moves to Houston, TX, in 1956 and then Macon, GA, in 1963. I graduated from Lanier Senior High School in 1967, which at the time was the largest JROTC unit in the country. In 1971, I graduated from Auburn University with a major in Marketing and Finance. I then moved to Florida while awaiting orders from the Army. In 1972, I completed the Armor Officer Basic Course in Ft. Knox and remained in the reserves until 1984.



To put food on the table and a roof over my head, I spent 37 years in banking as a relationship manager in commercial and commercial real estate lending. Twenty-five years were with three banks that were eventually acquired by Wells Fargo although I never actually worked for Wells. My career ended doing loan workouts and recovery for a large southern regional bank.

I became interested in amateur radio after I retired in 2012 at age 62. I needed something else to do. At that time, I had two hobbies – woodworking for skill and cycling for exercise, so I thought amateur radio would be good for the brain. I'm not sure it worked.

Regardless, I got busy and studied the course materials. After passing all three exams in 2013, I became active with the Silver Springs Radio Club. I am living proof that the club at that time had really lax membership requirements. They let me join, so blame them. Passing the exams is one thing; putting that knowledge to practical use is another ball game and the club was an invaluable source of advice on setting up my station and operating. Surprisingly, I didn't electrocute myself or burn the house down.

My first radio was a FT-857D acquired from the estate of a silent key. I used that rig on the first antenna I made – an EARCHI end fed random wire and a 9:1 unun. My next rig was an IC-7100 into an off-center fed dipole on my roof. My mentor, Kent Cales, K8VEE, now SK, got me interested in QRP operations. I eventually acquired a KX-2 which is used almost every day. More recently I acquired a Xiegu G-90 for portable operations that is also getting used quite a bit. I have several other rigs I play around with. I also like to tinker around building portable wire antennas and playing with different Buddipole configurations. Living in a HOA, all of my home antennas are used in stealth mode. Although I run barefoot from my home, I enjoy a little contesting, chasing some POTA activators and operating various modes, Field Day and club activities demonstrating amateur radio to the community.

K2DM Multi-Single in CQWWCW Contest

Wayne Brown, N4FP, The Villages Amateur Radio Club, Silver Springs Radio Club

I was fortunate to be invited by George, K2DM to participate as a run operator in the CQWWCW contest on Nov 28-29 for The Villages Amateur Radio Club. Other club operators included Doug K1CTR, Bob K3ZGA, Dennis N0SMX, and Gary W2TR. We ran as a Multi-Single entry, which means 1 station can operate full time and work as many contacts as possible with anyone while the other station can only work stations that provide a new zone or country multiplier. We worked all bands from 160 to 10, with these results:

BAND	CONTACTS	ZONES	COUNTRIES
160	17	7	12
80	111	14	52
40	598	29	85
20	436	28	91
15	598	23	81
10	98	16	28
	1858	117	430

Score: 2,416,210

The points for each contact were based on the continent and country, from 0 for your own country to 3.



Run Station, KX-3 and Extra 1.3K-FA

It was great to have activity on 15 and 10 meters after a long dry spell.

George has assembled a great contest station setup on a 2.5 acre lot in Wildwood. Each station has an Elecraft K-3 rig and an Extra 1.3K-FA amplifier. There are 3 towers, one each at 40, 60, and 90 ft. Antennas include monobanders for 10, 15, and 20 at 90 ft; a Cushcraft A3 + 40 Meter beam at 40 ft; a Bencher Skyhawk at 60 ft; 80 and 160 meter inverted Vees. N1MM+ was used as the contest log and controlled the station keying. George scheduled us for 2 or 4 hour operating periods with appropriate resting periods between. By Sunday things were pretty slow for the multiplier station as there were few new countries or zones to be found. George thinks he will opt for the Multi 2 category next year so both stations can work full time without restrictions.

Contest Chart

from
Bill Gillespie,
KW5BG
SSRC Incoming
President

